

TO: COUNCIL
FROM: TONI BIDDLE, DEPUTY MAYOR
MEETING DATE: MONDAY 28 JULY 2020

DEPUTY MAYOR REPORT TO COUNCIL

SUMMARY

On 28 May 2020 Council resolved that the Mayoral Office liaise with the Deputy Mayor so she could accompany His Worship on external stakeholder meetings and report back to Council as required. This is the report to Council from the external stakeholder relationships and meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Deputy Mayor Report to Council be received.

IMPLICATIONS

1.	<i>Has this been provided for in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan?</i> Yes
2.	<i>Is a budget amendment required?</i> No
3.	<i>Is this matter significant in terms of Council's Policy on Significance?</i> No
4.	<i>Implications in terms of other Council Strategic Documents or Council Policy?</i> No
5.	<i>Have the views of affected or interested persons been obtained and is any further public consultation required?</i> No
6.	<i>Has the Child, Youth and Family Friendly Policy been considered?</i> Yes

REPORT

Kia ora koutou,
Again another big month for us in the South.

WELCOME BACK TO OUR JET.

A formal welcome of our Jet was held at the Invercargill Airport on the 6 July 2020. We were fortunate to have the CEO of Air New Zealand Greg Foran visit Invercargill. I had a very brief conversation with Greg and he was pleased to be in Invercargill and was looking forward to a tour of the city block and seeing the projects first hand. It was great to see him come this way for our first flight back after COVID.

TOUR OF OCEAN BEACH

I completely underestimated the experience of walking through Ocean Beach. The passion, dedication and the work of the staff working in the Paua farm were very impressive. It was especially interesting to see the plans for the site around expansion. It was an opportunity to see the Hatchery concept and how that could impact our region. The great news since our Visit was the announcement of the Hatchery from the Provincial Growth Fund.

MAORI WOMEN'S LEAGUE

I had the pleasure of attending Arahi Maori Women's Welfare League on the 8th of July. This meeting was in regards to the COVID-19 response that had been delivered in Southland. There was feedback from the Police and also the new Housing agency set up in Invercargill called Emerge Aotearoa. I was able to update on Councils structure change and explain how this will allow a more efficient and effective process for Council. I have agreed to assist Arahi with a candidates evening in Invercargill before elections.

MBIE

In the past few months, I have been working to strengthen relationships with MBIE. I have spoken to several departments and staff to understand their role and what impact they have on Local Government. This is a continuous process and is one I feel we need to have a focus on.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

COVID recovery has now officially been handed over to MSD. I have had several meetings with Southland Regional Commissioner and his advisor to understand the work they are doing and how we as Local Government can contribute to this. Now Council has determined we play a role in rebuilding community capability it is important to understand what others are doing in the city. I will continue to sit in these conversations.

REGIONAL SKILLS LEADERSHIP GROUP

I am delighted to advise I have accepted a Ministerial appointment to this Group as a representative of Local Government. This appointment will be an interim period of 12 months.

The Regional Skills Leadership group for Southland has been established to provide advice and prepare for the region's changing labour market, particularly in light of the challenges facing the region as a result of COVID-19, and the announcement of the closure of Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter.

The group is one of 15 Regional Skills Leadership groups in New Zealand, set up by the Government in collaboration with regional partners to identify and support better ways of meeting future skills and workforce needs in our region.

The group draws together leaders who are already active in their communities, representing expertise across employment, business, unions, Māori development and local government.

Others appointed to this Group are below:

Southland members:

- Co-chair - Aimee Kaio, Manager, Tribal Economies, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- Co-chair - Paul Marshall, Founding Director of Thriving Southland (TS) In and Founder and Co-Chair of the Waiau Rivercare Group
- Member: Ceri Macleod, GM, Southern Otago Regional Engineering Collective
- Member: Richard Gray, Operations Manager, Fonterra
- Member: Chris Kennett, Production Manager, Balance
- Member: Lisa Shaw, Group Training Manager, Alliance Group
- Member: Janette Malcolm, Director, Community/ South Alive - Policy
- Member: Richard Kyte, Regional Leader, Federated Farmers
- Member: Dion Williams, Chair, Ngāi Tahu Fund
- Member: Anna Huffstutler, E Tu
- Member: Gary Davis, New Zealand Meat Workers Union
- Member: Graham Budd, CE, Great South
- Member: Toni Biddle, Deputy Mayor
- Member: Jason Tibble, MSD Regional Commissioner and Regional Public Service Lead
- Member: Stewart Hamilton, Chief Executive and General Manager NZAS

I would like to thank the Mayoral Forum for their endorsement.

TIWAI ANNOUNCEMENT

It is fair to say all hands have been on deck as a result of the Tiwai closure announcement on the 9th July. City leaders, MP's and business sector meet to discuss the response to the announcement. The following day his Worship and I attended a meeting with key contractors of Tiwai in a closed session at Ascot Park. It was identified there that there was a small window of opportunity to get in front of the Government and see if an agreement could be brokered.

On the 16th of July the Hon Prime Minister Jacinda Adern, Hon Grant Robertson, Hon Dr Megan Woods and Hon Shane Jones came south to a full house at Great South. Mayor Hicks as the Chair of the Mayoral forum lead the discussion.

Discussions are still very active between all parties.

After this meeting, we all accompanied Minister Jones as he announced the successful Provincial Growth Fund projects. It was pleasing to see the local businesses talk about their expansion thanks to this fund.

Darren Edwards and I remained with Minister Jones and visited several workplaces in Invercargill. We also had an opportunity to walk through the City Block and the highlight for us all was the end of the day visit to Seriously Good Chocolate Factory. We should be so proud of our local businesses and all the people that made our visitors feel welcome in our City.

O WEEK

The 15th of July was the commencement of SIT O week and I was honoured to be able to welcome new students on behalf of our City. It was wonderful to see the numbers flow into the Hansen Hall especially after the significant impact on International students.

SPORTS SOUTHLAND

Sports Southland is launching a new campaign around the promotion of healthy conversations with your children and alcohol. I was given an update on the campaign and asked to participate by simply sharing a Facebook post when the time comes. I would encourage anyone else who is approached to consider participating. The Education component of this campaign is so important for our Youth.

HOUSING

A new housing group has been introduced here in Southland. They are called Emerge Aotearoa. I had the opportunity to meet with the Manager of the Invercargill branch. We were fortunate enough to have Anna Stevens the Housing co-coordinator for SHAF and Angela Blair from Ngai Tahu. All three parties shared their roles and the challenges faced within our area. I was able to verify to all parties that the Council had passed a resolution that we were “enablers” and if we could assist then we could welcome suggestions to “enable” their mahi.

IWI/MAORI PARTNERSHIP

Great progress and work continue in this area. I would like to thank Councillors for being open about the requirement of this partnership and to the staff for their efforts. As you all know this is an area of great significance and I look forward to the strengthening partnerships in this area.